



FIELD REPORT : Q4 2021

BUSINESS LEADERS EXPLAIN WHY THEY'RE SPEAKING UP ON VOTING RIGHTS

 **BUSINESSFORWARD**
FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION

This report looks at what businesses across the U.S. have to say about voting rights, transparency in government, and keeping money out of politics. It is meant to serve as a resource for local, state, and Congressional officials and media.

State legislators across the country have introduced more than 500 bills that would make voting more difficult. The slate of election laws includes provisions to shorten the early voting window; remove voters from the early voter list; create stricter voter ID and notarization requirements; prohibit same day registration; decrease the number of polling places; require an excuse to vote by mail; and make it easier for election officials to cancel a voter's registration status without notifying them.¹

This report highlights four of the key arguments business leaders make in support of democracy and voting rights: (1) Restrictive voter laws divide our communities, and no one wants to invest in divided communities; (2) Employees, customers, and suppliers work hard every day — we shouldn't make it harder to vote; (3) Small business leaders want money out of politics more than anyone; and (4) U.S. businesses benefit from operating in the world's 'safe haven' for business, and we need to protect that.

Business Forward has worked with more than 250,000 entrepreneurs, executives, and small business owners across the country. If you are interested in learning more, we encourage you to reach out at info@businessfwd.org and participate in one of our trainings.

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Restrictive voter laws divide our communities. And no one wants to invest in divided communities.

”



“ The right to vote is the essence of a democratic society, and the voice of every voter should be heard in fair elections that are conducted with integrity. Unnecessary restrictions on the right to vote strike at the heart of representative government. Business Roundtable members believe state laws must safeguard and guarantee the right to vote. ”

BR Business Roundtable

“ Our democracy is under attack by a new wave of Jim Crow bills that seek to restrict the right to vote. It is urgent that businesses across the country take a stand — and use their brands as a force for good in support of our democracy. ”

patagonia

“ Voting should be safe, accessible, and easy for everyone. SB202 undermines free and fair elections in our home state of Georgia, and will make it harder for people to exercise their right to vote, especially people of color. Georgians deserve better. ”

mailchimp

“ Our history in fact is punctuated by the moments when we expanded that right to those to whom it had been denied too long. We must continue to right the wrongs of our past, and stand united in our advocacy for equal voting rights for all. ”

BANK OF AMERICA

“ We unequivocally believe in the importance of all Americans having an equal right to vote and oppose the recent Georgia voting rights law or any effort that impedes the ability to exercise this vital constitutional right. ”

VIACOMCBS

“ [The Georgia law] is wrong and needs to be remedied, and we will continue to advocate for it both in private and now even more clearly in public. ”

Coca-Cola

“ Our vote is our voice, and everyone deserves the opportunity to be heard. Governments should be working to make it easier to vote, not harder... [it] isn't a political issue, it's an issue of right and wrong. ”

CISCO

“ As a company and leadership team, we...stand against any efforts to suppress voting which is a fundamental right that belongs to all Americans. ”

AMERICAN EXPRESS

MICROSOFT: WHY WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT GEORGIA'S NEW ELECTION LAW



March 31, 2021 — Brad Smith, President & Vice Chair of Microsoft:

Just last month, Microsoft shared its decision to invest substantially in Atlanta. As I announced together with Georgia's Governor and Atlanta's Mayor, our company is making significant investments that will put Atlanta "on the path toward becoming one of Microsoft's largest hubs in the United States in the coming decade, after Puget Sound and Silicon Valley." We are creating thousands of new jobs, and we are proud to become a rapidly growing member of Atlanta's important business community.

That's why we are concerned about many aspects of Georgia's new "Election Integrity Act." Two things are clear to us. First, the right to vote is the most cherished aspect of democracy. And second, this new law has important provisions that unfairly restrict the rights of people to vote legally, securely, and safely. That's why we voiced concern about this legislation even before it was passed.

We are concerned by the law's impact on communities of color, on every voter, and on our employees and their families. We share the views of other corporate leaders that it's not only right but essential for the business community to stand together in opposition to the harmful provisions and other similar legislation that may be considered elsewhere.

It's also important for the business community to be principled, substantive, and concrete in explaining its concerns. Let me share some of the new law's provisions that we believe will harm individuals' ability to exercise their right to vote: [Restrictions on voting drop boxes, absentee ballots, and provisional ballots]...

We hope that companies will come together and make clear that a healthy business requires a healthy community. And a healthy community requires that everyone have the right to vote conveniently, safely, and securely. This new law falls short of the mark, and we should work together to press the Georgia legislature to change it.²



ARIZONA BUSINESS LEADERS JOIN GREATER PHOENIX LEADERSHIP STATEMENT

Disenfranchising voters is not 'Election Reform'...

“

Arizonans have an election system that is safe, secure, and convenient. Through the hard work of election officials and leaders from both parties, our voting system serves as a national model. Despite this success, we are now witnessing legislative efforts aimed at not only undoing this carefully crafted system, but actually attempting to suppress the votes of Arizonans. These efforts are misguided and must be defeated.

And as private-sector business leaders who lead the Public Policy Committee of an organization of CEOs at the helm of hundreds of thousands of employees in Arizona, it is incumbent upon us to speak out against proposals that could interfere with any Arizonan's right to vote...

The onslaught of voter suppression measures that have been introduced or entertained this session has been alarming. Attempts to disenfranchise Arizona voters is not "election reform" and cannot be tolerated. Further, pandering to those who willfully choose to perpetuate misleading or inaccurate information cannot continue. True leaders will play an important role in sharing the truth: our election system in Arizona works.³”



Michael Bidwill
Owner, Arizona Cardinals

Sharon Harper
President & CEO,
Plaza Companies

Adam Goodman
CEO, Goodmans
Interior Structures

Neil Giuliano
President & CEO, Greater
Phoenix Leadership

Bob Anderson
CEO, Prisma Graphic

Reginald M Ballantyne III
Past Chairman, American
Hospital Association

Jeff Benck
President & CEO,
Benchmark Electronics

Gonzalo de la Melena
Managing Member, Emerging
Domestic Market Ventures

Bob Delgado
President & CEO, Hensley
Beverage Company

Rich Dozer
Chairman of the Board,
Blue Cross Blue Shield
of Arizona

Ed Eisele
Co-Owner, Southwest
Baking Company

Mike Hoover
President & CEO,
Sundt Construction

Matthew Feeney
Chair, Snell & Wilmer

Peter Fine
President & CEO,
Banner Health

Phil Francis
Retired, PetSmart, Inc.

Greg Geist
Managing Director,
Commercial Banking,
BMO Harris

Joe Gysel
President, EPCOR
Water USA

Pam Kehaly
President & CEO,
Blue Cross Blue Shield
of Arizona

Sheila Kloefkorn
President & CEO,
KEO Marketing

Beau Lane
Partner &
Executive Chairman,
LaneTerralever

Kimber Lanning
Founder, Local First
Arizona

Todd LaPorte
CEO, HonorHealth

Bill Lavidge
President & CEO,
The Lavidge Company

Nick Mansour
President, Arizona
College

Tammy McLeod
President & CEO,
Flinn Foundation

Mike Medici
President & Managing
Partner, SmithGroup

Kevin Olson
Partner, Lewis Roca

Mi-Ai Parrish
President & CEO,
MAP Strategies

Javara Perilliat
Area President,
Republic Services

Scott Pompe
Regional President -
West, The Arizona
Republic/USA TODAY
Network

Steve Purves
President & CEO,
Valleywise Health

Steven Schwarz
Founding Partner,
ViaWest Group

Steve Seleznow
President & CEO,
Arizona Community
Foundation

Scarlett Spring
CEO, Taproot
Intervention & Solutions

Jim Swanson
President & CEO,
Kitchell Corporation

Jorge Quintero
President, QCM
Technologies

Lisa Urias
President Emeritus,
Urias Communications

Ed Zito
Managing Director,
Black Point Ventures

Paul Johnson
Co-Founder & CEO,
Redirect Health LLC

Vince Perla
CEO & Owner,
PF Technologies

ARIZONA BUSINESS LEADERS ADVOCATE IN LOCAL MEDIA

MY VIEW: MARICOPA COUNTY 'AUDIT' IS DAMAGING ARIZONA'S REPUTATION. AND THAT'S BAD NEWS FOR BUSINESS.

August 10, 2021 — Wendy Jameson, CEO of VieConnect US Inc.



In Arizona, our business community has a lot to be proud of. Our state has one of the country's highest GDPs and our population growth is skyrocketing — the highest rate in the nation. At this point, our lawmakers should be focused on ensuring that Arizona has an excellent national reputation so that we can attract new businesses, entice the best talent and help our economy recover from the pandemic.

Unfortunately, many in the Arizona Legislature are making our state a national embarrassment by conducting a sham review of Maricopa County's 2020 election results. This is bad for business and bad for democracy, and absolutely no one should trust the so-called "results" that come out of it.

Make no mistake: What's happened in our state is not an audit — it's a mockery. As a business leader, I'm no stranger to audits. They are essential and to be undertaken with the utmost seriousness. That's why before hiring auditors, it's crucial to make sure they have the skills, experience, and judgment to get the job done accurately. Yet the Arizona Senate hired Cyber Ninjas to conduct the audit even though it lacks these basic job requirements and instead has a specific agenda to push. And it shows...⁴



LETTER: VOTING RIGHTS OPINION



October 4, 2021 — Michael Kelly, Manager at Kelly Consulting Alliance, LLC

In the fastest growing city in America, business owners, employees, and customers are growing more diverse. A successful business owner knows if you want to serve more customers from all walks of life, accessibility is key.

If success in business requires accessibility and innovation, why don't these same qualities apply when it comes to access to the ballot?

During the 2020 election voting rights laws resulted in the largest voter turnout in history. Here in Arizona and throughout the nation. However, partisan elected officials did not like the outcomes. Therefore, in 2021 legislative sessions, they put measures in place to; limit the number of polling places for us to cast ballots and to remove voters off the rolls.

If business is a democracy where customers vote with their dollars, then why wouldn't state legislator's limit voting restrictions, to invest in democracy for everyone?

We need our senators to take lessons from the business community and do what it takes to pass the *Freedom to Vote Act*.⁵



FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES DEFEND THE FREEDOM TO VOTE

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AIG **denounces all efforts to restrict the constitutional right of Americans to vote...** Election laws that layer unnecessary obstacles and barriers to the right to vote and that knowingly disenfranchise black, brown and other underrepresented groups, represent **a significant step backward for all Americans.**

”

- PETER ZAFFINO
CEO, AIG

“

Apple believes that, thanks in part to the power of technology, it **ought to be easier than ever for every eligible citizen to exercise their right to vote.** We support efforts to ensure that our democracy's future is more hopeful and inclusive than its past.

”

- TIM COOK
CEO, APPLE

“

The right to vote should be distributed **in the broadest sense** and anything that goes against that should not be tolerated... it's [the states'] decision, but **if we had a standard we could hold people to, that would be good.**

”

- BRIAN MOYNIHAN
CEO, BANK OF AMERICA

“

The right to vote is sacred. It is fundamental to our democracy and those rights **not only need to be protected, but easily facilitated in a safe and secure manner...**[The claim of widespread voter fraud] is simply not true. Unfortunately, that excuse is being used in states across the nation that are attempting to pass similar legislation to restrict voting rights... **we stand together in our commitment to protect and facilitate your precious right to vote.**

”

- ED BASTIAN
CEO, DELTA AIRLINES

“

Ensuring equal and easy access to vote, for all those who are eligible to participate in each state, is critical to upholding the principles our country was founded upon. Unfairly limiting that right is wrong... **As a company and leadership team, we support this message and stand against any efforts to suppress voting** which is a fundamental right that belongs to all Americans.

”

- STEPHEN J. SQUERI
CHAIRMAN & CEO, AMERICAN EXPRESS

“

FCX **strongly believes that citizen involvement is essential to a vibrant and successful democracy.** We provide non-partisan voter education materials to our employees... and we encourage our employees and their families to vote.

”


FREEPORT-McMoRAN

“

An election cannot be free nor fair if every eligible voter is not given a full chance to vote, or if laws exist that make it harder to do so. To the extent that proposed pieces of legislation are designed to make it more difficult for eligible Americans to cast a ballot, **we offer our strong opposition and urge legislators to vote no.**

”


BEST BUY

“

To make American's stance clear: **We are strongly opposed** to this [anti-voter bill]... We value the democratic process and believe every eligible American should be allowed to exercise their right to vote, no matter which political party or candidate they support... Any legislation dealing with how elections are conducted must ensure ballot integrity and security while **making it easier to vote, not harder.**

”


 American Airlines

“

Lyft is **firmly opposed to any laws** limiting voting by mail, reducing the number of days people can vote, or pushing any other restrictions on access for eligible voters — particularly those disproportionately impacting Black and Brown communities... At Lyft, we will continue to look for ways to make access to transportation less of a barrier to voting, and speak out **against voting restrictions that make it harder for Americans to participate in their democracy.**

”


lyft

“

We believe that all Americans should enjoy equitable access to secure elections and we have long supported and promoted voter education, registration and participation campaigns across the country to achieve that goal. **Efforts to limit or impede access to this vital constitutional right for any citizen are not consistent with our values.**

”


COMCAST

“

UPS believes that voting laws and legislation should **make it easier, not harder, for Americans to exercise their right to vote.**

UPS will continue to work with elected officials across the country to strengthen our democracy by facilitating equitable poll access and voting.

”



“

Wells Fargo supports the right of every American to exercise their voice by voting. This is a key pillar of our democracy and **we oppose legislation that attempts to limit this right or is discriminatory in nature.** We also encourage Congress to establish Federal Election Day as a national holiday, thereby establishing the importance of this right.

”



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The right to vote is foundational to our democracy and a right coveted by all. We believe **every voter should have a fair opportunity to let their voice be heard.** This right is essential to our nation's success.

”



“

At Hyatt, we firmly believe that **voting, a cornerstone of our democracy, is a fundamental right.** Hyatt's purpose is to care for people so they can be their best, and **we see voting as an important way to help citizens care for our communities** — independent of an individual's race or political affiliation. This is consistent with our longstanding commitment to equity and inclusion, and our belief that it is important for every voice to be heard.

We look to our elected officials to **ensure that every voter has a voice** and to bring confidence to election results.

”



“

Some have questioned the integrity of the nation's election systems and are using it to justify stricter voting procedures, even though **numerous studies have found zero credible evidence of widespread fraud** in U.S. elections. Legislation that infringes on the right to vote of fellow Americans **is wrong.** We believe that leaders in both parties should work to protect the rights of eligible voters by making it **easier and more convenient for them to cast a ballot and have it counted.**

”



INTEL CEO PAT GELSINGER: “WE’RE COMMITTED TO ARIZONA...”

Intel has four semiconductor factories in Arizona and has been operating in the state for more than 40 years. The technology company has long valued its relationship with the Arizona community.

Intel employs 12,000 Arizonans and contributes \$8.6 billion annually. Since 2015, it has given more than \$35 million in support to Arizona schools and nonprofits. Employees have volunteered more than 750,000 hours.⁶

CEO Pat Gelsinger described Intel’s relationship with the state: “We’re committed to Arizona; it’s been good to us, and we’re going to be good to them.”⁷

Because of his company’s strong partnership with the state, Gelsinger spoke out to oppose the anti-voter laws proposed in Arizona.

“

Our country is stronger with more voting, not less, and with the evolution of technology, voting can be more secure, equitable and accessible. We oppose any legislation that seeks to reduce the voting rights or opportunities of American citizens.

”

- PAT GELSINGER
CEO, INTEL

INTEL TO ADD 2 FACTORIES TO ITS CHANDLER CAMPUS; \$20B INVESTMENT IN ARIZONA WILL CREATE THOUSANDS OF JOBS.

RUSS WILES
MARCH 23, 2021

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

CHANDLER EXPANSION

In March 2021 — days before he spoke out in support of voting rights — Gelsinger announced plans to invest \$20 billion in Intel’s campus in Chandler, Arizona.

The move will “create over 3,000 permanent high-tech, high-wage jobs, over 3,000 construction jobs, and 15,000 local long-term jobs,” Gelsinger explained.⁸

“

Today’s announcement means jobs, jobs, and more jobs for the state of Arizona. No company has been such an instrumental partner in Arizona’s growth and transformation over the years as intel, and my sincere thanks goes out to CEO Pat Gelsinger and the entire Intel team.

”

- DOUG DUCEY
GOVERNOR, ARIZONA

“

**Our employees,
customers and
suppliers work
hard every day.
We shouldn't make
it harder to vote.**

”



CORPORATE AMERICA DEFENDS VOTING ACCESS ON BEHALF OF EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNITIES

100+ BUSINESSES SIGN DECLARATION FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, VOTE.ORG, AND WHEN WE ALL VOTE LETTER



To the U.S. Congress:

We write to you as business leaders who care deeply about our employees, communities, and this great nation. We believe businesses have a responsibility to their employees to ensure they can vote safely and without undue obstacles. This is why we support the *For the People Act*—one of the most significant pieces of legislation to strengthen our democracy since the Civil Rights era...

The *For the People Act* is not about choosing one party or one issue over another, it is about common sense reforms that protect and expand our democracy, and put the power in the hands of the people. It is about reaffirming our founding principle that we can chart our own course as a nation...

We call upon our colleagues in corporate America to join us in taking a nonpartisan stand for a democracy that is inclusive of all Americans, and we stand united with the American people to reimagine democracy for all. We applaud the House for passing the *For the People Act*, and urge the Senate to follow suit and do its part to protect our democracy. Together, we can ensure our employees and communities can safely and freely cast their ballots so every voice is heard and our elections reflect the will of the people.⁹

CEOS OFFER TIME TO VOTE



MORE THAN 280 BUSINESSES SIGN CIVIC ALLIANCE STATEMENT

civic
alliance

THE RIGHT TO VOTE IS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR DEMOCRACY.



We believe every American should have a voice in our democracy and that voting should be safe and accessible to all voters. We stand in solidarity with voters — and with the Black executives and leaders at the helm of this movement in our nonpartisan commitment to equality and democracy. If our government is going to work for all of us, each of us must have equal freedom to vote and elections must reflect the will of voters.

Our elections are not improved when lawmakers impose barriers that result in longer lines at the polls or that reduce access to secure ballot dropboxes. There are hundreds of bills threatening to make voting more difficult in dozens of states nationwide. We call on elected leaders in every state capitol and in Congress to work across the aisle and ensure that every eligible American has the freedom to easily cast their ballot and participate fully in our democracy.¹⁰



LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS DEMAND VOTING BE MADE EASIER, NOT HARDER

“

The alternative to voting by mail needs to be time off to vote — but not everyone has jobs where time off to vote is feasible and in urgent situations, I've seen employees foregoing voting. We need to have vote by mail and early voting standardized across states.

”

- JOANNE LADENSON
VALLEY VILLAGE, CA

“

Our healthcare providers serve economically disadvantaged populations whose voices are critical to a properly functioning democracy... Without their participation, their needs will go unmet and misunderstood and ultimately require greater expenditures by the state on social services.

”

- RITU CHATTREE
CEO, COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH CENTER, NEW YORK, NY

“

Community-based economic development is at the heart of my local food systems work. A central part of that is actively engaged community members. We need to do everything we can to lift all the voices.

”

- PATTI MILLER
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT,
GROW WITH THE FLOW, LLC
BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV

“

Our local economy is dependent on shift workers & service industry workers... Since it is often difficult for these important workers to vote within the confines of Election Day hours, the expansion of early & mail in voting has improved voter turnout for Independents, Democrats and Republicans equally... this law will ensure the most comprehensive approach to ensure that opportunity is afforded to every eligible voter.

”

- TRACY CONARD
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
ROUSS THEATRE AND CENTER
FOR THE ARTS
EDINBURG, VA

“

Voting needs to be made easier for all people to be able to exercise their right.

”

- KRISTIN EMERSON
EVENT PROJECT COORDINATOR,
EMERSON CONSULTING
SAINT PAUL, MN

“

I want to be certain that my patients, people with disabilities and chronic health conditions, and their families, have access to free and fair elections. I want to know that their voices and views count with elected representatives who put each individual voter first, without undue, hidden influence from corporations or lobbyists.

”

- DR. KAREN WILLS
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

“

I work for a nonprofit that serves low-income working families. They do not always have the ability to get to the polls because of work hours, transportation or lack of child care.

”

- KERRIE MCKEOUGH
GLENVIEW, IL

“

**Small business
leaders want
money out of
politics more
than anyone.**



”

800 LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS SIGN BUSINESS FORWARD STATEMENT



We are small business owners, executives, entrepreneurs, and investors from across the United States, and we are writing to urge you to support the *Freedom to Vote Act*, a set of reforms for protecting and improving American democracy. The bill strengthens voting rights, enhances election security, prevents corruption in government, and increases transparency in political spending.

Rebuilding trust in elections is a critical step toward assuring voters that their votes will count and voices will be heard. Key reforms to democracy would ensure a government that reflects voters' vision to increase local investment, create good jobs, and foster equitable economies. Local business leaders understand what their communities need to achieve these goals.

Americans want a system that works for every voter. For far too long, barriers to voting have undercut the power and representation of Black, Latinx, AAPI, Native American and people with disabilities.

As businesses committed to supporting the communities our employees live and work in, we urge Congress to take immediate action.



“ Stronger voting rights are essential to my small business. It strengthens my voice as a small business owner and voter who cannot afford to make big political contributions in order to be heard. ”

- CARL VILLELLA
PRESIDENT, ACCEPTANCE LEASING
AND FINANCING SERVICE, INC.
CORAOPOLIS, PA

“ Political favors should not be sold to the highest bidder. Right now in America every political policy is supported by rich people and corporations. The average American has very little influence over what happens within our country. ”

- JUDITH RITENBURGH
OWNER/MANAGER, GROUP FOSTER HOME
TRAPPER CREEK, AK

“

Increased transparency around political donations provides a more level playing field for businesses and more accountability all around.

”

- JUAN HINDO
PROGRAM MANAGER, IBM
CHICAGO, IL

“

SME businesses feel that the buying of access puts them at a disadvantage. Corruption or perception of it prevents merit entrepreneurs from participating in the economy.

”

- JESSICA WASSERMAN
PARTNER, WASSERMAN ROWE
WASHINGTON, DC

“

With huge, wealthy corporations able to ‘buy’ Congresspeople and Senators, who then are beholden to these donors... small businesses pay a very high price by being excluded in having a say in how this country is governed...

”

- PATRICIA GUTHRIE
OWNER, GUTHRIE & LARASON
CHALFONT, PA

“

I believe increased transparency about political processes and protection of voting rights for our citizens will help to reduce the disharmony currently in our country. This can only act to improve conditions for small businesses, such as mine, to have a brighter future and a broader market appeal.

”

- CURTIS LISLE
CONSULTANT, KNOWLEDGEVIS LLC.
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FL

“

Voting rights ensure representation of all community members, and in this community there are many in poverty and people of color who must be represented. Laws and policies should not go to the highest bidder.

”

- SUSAN SHELQUIST
BEMIDJI, MN

“

Currently the largest corporations are given a large and overwhelming voice and benefit, prioritizing their growth and profit over all public good. For democracy to survive, this needs to be changed.

”

- MARIE VENNER
CO-CHAIR, BUSINESSES FOR A LIVABLE CLIMATE
LITTLETON, CO

ANOTHER 800 SMALL BUSINESSES IN KEY STATES BACK COMMON CAUSE LETTER

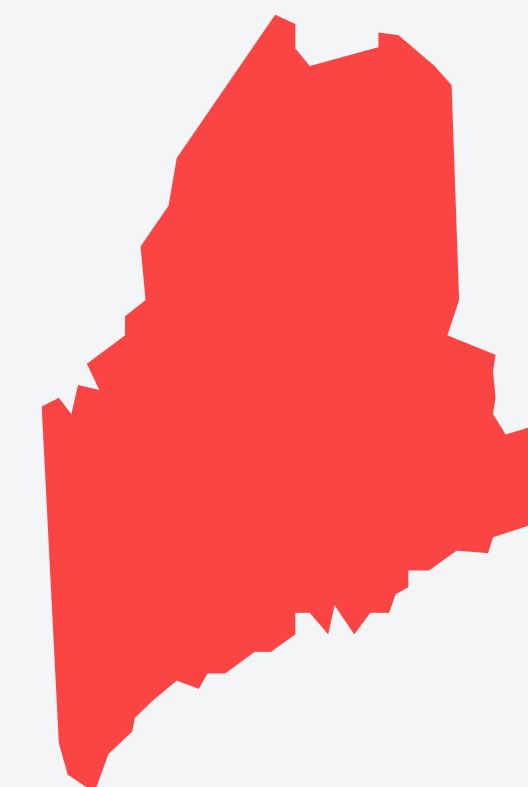
TO SENATORS IN
GA, AK, ME, AND AZ:



On behalf of the below organizations, we write in strong support of H.R. 1/S. 1, the *For the People Act*. This transformational democracy reform package would help return power to everyday American families and amplify the voices of communities that have historically been marginalized in our democracy.

For far too long, special interests, wealthy donors, and vote suppressors have dominated our politics and attempted to silence the voices of everyday Americans, especially in Black and Brown communities. The *For the People Act* would help shift power away from bad actors and transfer it to “we the people.” The 2020 election has underscored the urgent need for transformational democracy reform. Across the nation, Americans experienced unprecedented voter suppression, historic levels of dark money spent to drown out the voices of everyday Americans, and rampant ethical abuses. After this election, the anti-democratic SB202 was passed by the Georgia State Legislature, causing additional suppression and obstruction. One bill, the *For the People Act*, addresses many of these problems. Therefore, we are urging Congress to make this pro-voter, anti-corruption legislation a first priority in the 117th Congress.

Common-sense reforms in the *For the People Act*, most of which are deeply popular across the political spectrum and have passed in many states and localities, aim to accomplish three overarching goals: (1) protecting and strengthening the sacred right to vote, (2) ending the dominance of big money in politics, and (3) implementing anti-corruption, pro-ethics measures to clean up government. Many of the critical issues that our nation faces -- ensuring quality, affordable health care, creating good paying jobs, combating climate change, and achieving racial justice, to name just a few -- cannot be fully solved until we fix our broken democracy. Wealthy special interests have too strong of a grip on the status quo, and we need to first unlock this stranglehold that they have on our political system. We, the below organizations, thank you for cosponsoring S. 1, the *For the People Act*, and urge you to fix the filibuster and ensure the *For the People Act* is passed in the Senate and is put on President Biden’s desk.¹²



“

We benefit from operating in the world's 'safe haven' for business. We need to protect that.



”

SMALL BUSINESSES EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF A STRONG RULE OF LAW

“

I am the founder and CEO of a company that exports to over two dozen countries around the world. The last few years have hurt our stature as a U.S. company, and the emerging voter suppression is a potential death blow...

”

- SKI MILBURN
EXECUTIVE, VAIREX AIR SYSTEMS
BOULDER, CO

“

A stronger, more responsive democracy makes our economy run smarter and stronger. More opportunity means more clients, more business, more profit.

”

- SACHIN CHHEDA
PARTNER, NATION CONSULTING
MILWAUKEE, WI

“

Businesses can't plan ahead when there is no transparency or accountability.

”

- KATHIE NORMAN
OWNER, KEES, INC.
SHEBOYGAN, WI

“

I've done business all over the world. The US is still near the top of business-friendly countries, thanks, in large measure, to its long-established history of respecting and upholding the law.

”

- RICHARD ROBERTSON
DIRECTOR, SYBRO GLOBAL DENVER, CO

“

Businesses thrive when our democratic institutions are protected, and without protections from the courts, our economy and free market society start crumbling.

”

- MILLIE HERRERA
PRESIDENT, THE MIAMI GROUP & ASSOCIATES
MIAMI, FL

“

We represent a brand in America that is fairness, voting, democracy, and that helps our companies when we walk into the room... those values that we bring with us as Americans around the world — we all benefit from that. If we are seen as losing that at any level systemically, that is going to hurt everybody down the road...people respect American companies for a reason, and we want to retain that.

”

- CHARLES PHILLIPS
MANAGING PARTNER & CO-FOUNDER, RECOGNIZE

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